



Office of the West Seneca Town Supervisor  
Hon. Gary A. Dickson

**Memorandum**

To: Honorable Town Board  
From: Gary Dickson, Town Supervisor  
Date: February 10, 2022  
Subject: Dedication of Martha Burchfield Richter Atrium

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Dear Colleagues,

As you know, Charles Burchfield was a prominent artist who spent many years in West Seneca. West Seneca is home to our Charles E. Burchfield Nature and Art Center (BNAC) and the Charles Burchfield Home and Studio at 3574 Clinton Street. The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce, the Town of West Seneca, and the owners of the Burchfield home are working together to promote that area of town as the “Charles Burchfield Gardenville District.”

Martha Burchfield Richter was Charles and Bertha Burchfield’s daughter and a noted artist in her own right. Her work has been shown at the Keenan Center and the Burchfield Penny Art Center. Louise Schoene, a West Seneca resident, owns many of Martha’s works and would like to help us promote West Seneca as a tourist destination. Ms. Schoene has donated artwork to the BNAC and to the West Seneca Historical Society. She also donated the hardware to the town for hanging art in the atrium of the Community Center/Library. This has allowed us to show artwork by members of the West Seneca Art Society and the schools.

Ms. Schoene has proposed that we name the atrium in honor of Martha Burchfield Richter. Ms. Schoene would pay for the signage (see attached) and would help the town reach out to the art and donor communities to promote West Seneca. She will also help us organize a large event centered on the Burchfields once the BNAC building is ready to reopen.

Given the importance of Charles and Martha Burchfield to West Seneca and opportunity to turn West Seneca into a tourist destination centered on the Burchfields, I recommend that we name the CC/L atrium in honor of Martha Richter Burchfield.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WEST SENECA

SUPPORTING THE DEDICATION OF THE MARTHA BURCHFIELD RICHTER ATRIUM

**WHEREAS**, Martha Elizabeth Burchfield Richter, was an American Watercolorist with an affinity for flowering plants, trees, and landscapes. She is known for her depictions of nature throughout the seasons, and landscapes which featured scenes of the countryside, farms and homes of Western New York Area. She favored en plein-air (in the open and on location) when creating her work.

**WHEREAS**, Martha Burchfield Richter, daughter of the famous West Seneca Artist Charles E. Burchfield, was born on June 28, 1924, and grew up in West Seneca on Clinton Street across from Island Park with her siblings. In 1999, the 29-acre park became the Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center (BNAC) in honor of her father.

**WHEREAS**, Martha Burchfield Richter studied at the Albright Art School in Buffalo, and her paintings and drawings can be found in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Butler Institute of American Art, SUNY Buffalo State College, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, and the Ford Motor Company. She is in many private and public collections around the United States and has been the subject of many exhibitions and solo exhibitions around the country. Several of her paintings were also featured in the movie *Marshall*.

**WHEREAS**, the largest collection of Martha Burchfield Richter in the personal collection of West Seneca resident, Louise Simon Schoene. A portion of this collection will be showcased in the Martha Burchfield Richter Atrium at its ceremonial dedication.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of West Seneca honors Martha Burchfield Richter as a prominent female artist from the Town of West Seneca and supports the dedication of the Martha Burfield Richter Atrium in the West Seneca Community Center & Library located at 1300 Union Road.

# MARTHA BURCHFIELD RICHTER ATRIUM

